

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA
NEW ORLEANS DIVISION**

JAMES CHESTER, III, DENNIS CROCKER,)	
BRADLEY DASPIIT, PETER HAAS,)	Civil Action No:
RICHARD HIRSTIUS, GENE JONES,)	
TROY LACOUR, EDWARD MAYERS, III,)	COMPLAINT AND JURY
KIRK MEIER, BRIAN MONNERJAHN,)	DEMAND
ANTHONY SAMBOLA, JR.,)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
THE 3M COMPANY, f/k/a MINNESOTA)	
MINING AND MANUFACTURING CO.,)	
AGC CHEMICALS AMERICAS, INC.,)	
ALLSTAR FIRE EQUIPMENT,)	
AMEREX CORP., ARCHROMA US,)	
INC., ARKEMA, INC., BASF CORP.,)	
BUCKEYE FIRE EQUIPMENT CO.,)	
CARRIER GLOBAL CORP., CHEMDESIGN)	
PRODUCTS, INC., CHEMGUARD, INC.,)	
CHEMICALS, INC., THE CHEMOURS CO.,)	
CHEMOURS COMPANY FC, L.L.C.,)	
CHUBB FIRE, LTD., CLARIANT CORP.,)	
CORTEVA, INC., DEEPWATER)	
CHEMICALS, INC., DU PONT)	
DE NEMOURS, INC., DYNAX CORP.,)	
E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND)	
COMPANY, FIRE-DEX, LLC, GLOBE)	
MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LLC,)	
HONEYWELL SAFETY PRODUCTS USA,)	
INC., KIDDE-FENWAL, INC.,)	
KIDDE P.L.C., INC., LION GROUP, INC.)	
MALLORY SAFETY AND SUPPLY, LLC,)	
MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES CO., INC,)	
MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES. INC.,))	
NATION FORD CHEMICAL CO;)	
NATIONAL FOAM, INC.,)	
PBI PERFORMANCE PRODUCTS, INC.,)	
SOUTHERN MILLS, INC.,)	
STEDFAST USA, INC.)	
TYCO FIRE PRODUCTS, L.P.,)	
UNITED TECHNOLOGIES CORP.,)	

UTC FIRE & SECURITY AMERICAS CORP.,)
 W.L. GORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.)
)
Defendants.)

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, James Chester, III, Dennis Crocker, Bradley Daspit, Peter Haas, Richard Hirstius, Gene Jones, Troy LaCour, Edward Mayers, III, Kirk Meier, Brian Monnerjahn, and Anthony Sambola, Jr. ("Plaintiffs"), by and through the undersigned counsel, allege upon information and belief, as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Aqueous Film Forming Foam ("AFFF") is a specialized substance designed to extinguish petroleum-based fires. It has been used for decades, and continues to be used, by civilian and military firefighters to put out fires and in training and response exercises in preparation for fires.

2. AFFF contains synthetic, toxic per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances collectively known as "PFAS."¹ PFAS bind to proteins in the blood of animals and humans exposed to such materials and not only remain and persist over long periods of time, but, due to their unique chemical structure, accumulate and build up in the blood/bodies of the exposed individuals with each additional exposure, no matter how small. PFAS can travel long distances, move through

¹" PFAS" includes but is not limited to: perfluorooctanoic acid ("PFOA") and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid ("PFOS") and related chemicals, including but not limited to those that degrade to PFOA and/or PFOS, and including but not limited to C3-C-15 PFAS chemicals, such as perfluorohexanesulfonate (PFHxS), perfluorononanoate (PFNA), perfluorobutanesulfonate (PFBS), perfluorohexanoate (PFHxA), perfluoroheptanoate (PFHpA), perfluoroundecanoate (PFUnA), perfluorododecanoate (PFDoA), HFPA Dimer Acid (CAS # 13252-13-6/C3 Dimer Acid/P-08-508/FRD903/GX903/C3DA/GenX), and HFPA Dimer Acid Ammonium Salt (CAS#62037-80-3/ammonium salt of C3 Dimer Acid/P-08-509/FRD902/GX903/GenX)

soil, seep into groundwater, or be carried through air.

3. Defendants collectively designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF with knowledge that it contained highly toxic and long lasting PFASs, which would contaminate Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the resultant biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs. Further, defendants designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS for use in firefighting. Further, defendants designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

4. As a result, Plaintiffs were exposed to AFFF containing PFAS and suffered severe personal injuries as a result.

5. This action is brought by Plaintiffs for injunctive, equitable, and declaratory relief for injuries arising from the intentional, knowing, reckless and/or negligent acts and/or omissions of Defendants in connection with contamination of the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs with PFAS through the design, marketing, development, manufacture, distribution, release, training, and sale of AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS, and/or PFAS or products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Complaint, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(a), as the parties are completely diverse in citizenship and the amount in

controversy exceeds \$75,000. This Court has jurisdiction over the commencement date of these actions pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9658, in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 amendment to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("CERCLA").

7. Venue is proper in the United States District Court in the Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because it is the judicial district in which Plaintiffs are residents and citizens, a substantial part of events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred, and Defendants conduct business within this district.

PARTIES

Plaintiffs

8. Plaintiff James Chester, III is a resident and citizen of Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

9. Plaintiff Dennis Crocker is a resident and citizen of Independence, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

10. Plaintiff Bradley Daspit is a resident and citizen of Houma, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

11. Plaintiff Peter Haas is a resident and citizen of Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

12. Plaintiff Richard Hirstius is a resident and citizen of New Orleans, Orleans Parish,

Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

13. Plaintiff Gene Jones is a resident and citizen of Avondale, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

14. Plaintiff Troy LaCour is a resident and citizen of New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

15. Plaintiff Edward Mayers, III is a resident and citizen of Kenner, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

16. Plaintiff Kirk Meier is a resident and citizen of Metairie, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

17. Plaintiff Brian Monnerjahn is a resident and citizen of Slidell, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

18. Plaintiff Antony Sambola, Jr. is a resident and citizen of Ponchatoula, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana. Plaintiff brings this action due to personal injuries sustained as a result of exposure to Defendants' AFFF containing PFAS.

Defendants

19. Defendant, 3M Company, f/k/a Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company, ("3M"), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including

conducting business in Louisiana. 3M has its principal place of business at 3M Center, St. Paul, Minnesota 55133.

20. 3M designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, promoted, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

21. Defendant, AGC Chemicals Americas Inc. ("AGC Chemicals"), is a Delaware Corporation and does business through the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. AGC Chemicals has its principal place of business at 55 E. Uwchlan Ave, Ste 201, Exton, Pennsylvania 19341.

22. AGC Chemicals, manufactured fluoropolymer chemicals and surfactants for AFFF manufacturers who designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

23. Defendant, Allstar Fire Equipment ("Allstar") is a California corporation and does business throughout the United States, including in Louisiana. Allstar has its principal place of business at 12328 Lower Azusa Road, Arcadia, California 91006.

24. Allstar developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

25. Defendant, Amerex Corp. (“Amerex”), is an Alabama corporation organized and existing under the laws of Alabama and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Amerex has its principal place of business at 7595 Gadsden Highway, Trussville, AL 35173.

26. Amerex designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or designed and manufactured components of and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

27. Defendant Archroma U.S., Inc. (“Archroma”), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Archroma has its principal place of business at 4000 Monroe Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205.

28. Archroma designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

29. Defendant, Arkema, Inc., is a Pennsylvania corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Arkema, Inc. has its principal place of business at 900 1st Avenue, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406.

30. Arkema, Inc., designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF

containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

31. Defendant, BASF Corporation ("BASF"), is a Delaware corporation doing business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. BASF Corporation has its principal place of business at 100 Park Ave., Florham Park, New Jersey 07932.

32. BASF is successor-in-interest to Ciba-Geigy Corp. and Ciba Inc., which manufactured fluorosurfactants for AFFF manufacturers who designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

33. Defendant Buckeye Fire Equipment Company ("Buckeye") is an Ohio corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Buckeye has its principal place of business at 110 Kings Road, Mountain, North Carolina 28086.

34. Buckeye designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

35. Defendant, Carrier Global Corporation ("Carrier Global"), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in

Louisiana. Carrier Global Corporation has its principal place of business at 13995 Pasteur Boulevard, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418.

36. Carrier Global Corporation inherited UTC's Fire & Security businesses, including the Chubb Fire and Kidde-Fenwall brands, when it was formed in March 2020. Carrier Global Corporation is the parent corporation of Kidde-Fenwal Inc., a manufacturer of AFFF who designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

37. Defendant, ChemDesign Products, Inc. ("ChemDesign"), f/k/a "SpecialtyChem Acquisition Corp.", is a Texas Corporation that does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. ChemDesign Products, Inc. has its principal place of business at 2 Stanton St., Marinette, Wisconsin 54143.

38. ChemDesign manufactured fluorosurfactants for AFFF manufacturers, Tyco and Chemguard, who designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

39. Defendant Chemguard, Inc. ("Chemguard") is a Wisconsin corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Chemguard has its principal place of business at One Stanton Street, Marinette, Wisconsin 54143.

40. Chemguard designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

41. Defendant, Chemicals, Inc., is a Texas Corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Chemicals, Inc. has its principal place of business at 12321 Hatcherville Rd., Baytown, Texas 77521.

42. Chemicals, Inc. manufactured fluorochemicals for AFFF manufacturers who designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

43. Defendant The Chemours Company ("Chemours"), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Chemours has its principal place of business 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898.

44. Chemours designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

45. Defendant Chemours Company FC, LLC ("Chemours FC"), is a Delaware

corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Chemours has its principal place of business 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898.

46. Chemours FC designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

47. Defendant Chubb Fire, Ltd. ("Chubb") is a foreign private limited company, with offices at Littleton Road, Ashford, Middlesex, United Kingdom TW15 1TZ. Upon information and belief, Chubb is registered in the United Kingdom with a registered number of 134210. Upon information and belief, Chubb is or has been composed of different subsidiaries and/or divisions, including but not limited to, Chubb Fire & Security Ltd., Chubb Security, PLC, Red Hawk Fire & Security, LLC, and/or Chubb National Foam, Inc.

48. Chubb Fire designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

49. Defendant, Clariant Corporation ("Clariant"), is a New York corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Clariant Corporation has its principal place of business at 4000 Monroe Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28205.

50. Clariant was a flurootelomer manufacturer which produced fluorosurfactants for AFFF manufacturers that designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies. Clariant acquired by SK Capital Partners and became Archroma Management LLC.

51. Defendant Corteva, Inc. ("Corteva") is a Delaware Corporation that conducts business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Its principal place of business is 974 Center Rd, Wilmington, Delaware 19805.

52. Corteva designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

53. Defendant, Deepwater Chemicals, Inc., is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Deepwater Chemicals, Inc. has its principal place of business at 196122 E County Road 40, Woodward, Oklahoma 73801.

54. Deepwater Chemicals, Inc. manufactured fluorochemicals for AFFF manufacturers which designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in

such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

55. Defendant Du Pont de Nemours Inc. (f/k/a DowDuPont, Inc.) ("DowDuPont"), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. DowDuPont, has its principal place of business at 974 Centre Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19805 and 2211 H.H. Dow Way, Midland, Michigan 48674.

56. DowDuPont designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

57. Defendant E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company ("DuPont"), is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. DuPont has its principal place of business at 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, Delaware 19898.

58. DuPont designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

59. Defendant Dynax Corporation ("Dynax") is a Delaware Corporation that conducts business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Its principal place of business is 103 Fairview Park Drive, Elmsford, New York, 10523-1544.

60. Dynax designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

61. Defendant Fire-Dex, LLC ("Fire-Dex") is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Fire-Dex has its principal place of business at 780 South Progress Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256.

62. Fire-Dex developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

63. Defendant Globe Manufacturing Company LLC ("Globe") is a New Hampshire corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Globe has its principal place of business at 37 Loudon Road, Pittsfield, New Hampshire 03263.

64. Globe developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

65. Defendant Honeywell Safety Products USA, Inc. ("Honeywell") is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Honeywell has its principal place of business at 300 South Tryon Street Suite 500, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

66. Honeywell developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

67. Defendant Kidde-Fenwal, Inc. ("Kidde-Fenwal") is a corporation organized under

the laws of the State of Delaware and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Kidde-Fenwal has its principal place of business at One Financial Plaza, Hartford, Connecticut 06101. Kidde-Fenwal is the successor-in-interest to Kidde Fire Fighting, Inc. (f/k/a Chubb National Foam, Inc. f/k/a National Foam System, Inc.) (collectively, “Kidde/Kidde Fire”).

68. Kidde-Fenwal designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

69. Defendant Kidde P.L.C., Inc. (“Kidde P.L.C.”) is a Delaware corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Kidde P.L.C. has its principal place of business at One Carrier Place, Farmington, Connecticut 06034. Upon information and belief, Kidde PLC was formerly known as Williams Holdings, Inc. and/or Williams US, Inc.

70. Kidde P.L.C. designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

71. Defendant Lion Group, Inc. (“Lion”) is an Ohio corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Lion has its principal place of business at 7200 Poe Avenue, Suite 400 Dayton, Ohio, 45414.

72. Lion developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

73. Defendant Mallory Safety and Supply LLC. (“Mallory”) is a Washington corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Mallory has its principal place of business at 1040 Industrial Way, Longview, Washington, 98632.

74. Mallory developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

75. Defendant Mine Safety Appliances Co., Inc. (“MSA”) is a Pennsylvania corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. MSA has its principal place of business at 1000 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, 16066.

76. MSA developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

77. Defendant Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. (“MES”) is a Nevada corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. MES has its principal place of business at 12 Turnberry Lane, Sandy Hook, Connecticut 06482.

78. MES developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

79. Defendant, Nation Ford Chemical Company, is a South Carolina corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Nation Ford Chemical Company has its principal place of business at 2300 Banks Street, Fort Mill, South Carolina 29715.

80. Nation Ford Chemical Company manufactured fluorochemicals for fluorosurfactant and/or AFFF manufacturers which designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

81. Defendant National Foam, Inc. ("National Foam") is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. National Foam has its principal place of business at 350 East Union Street, West Chester, Pennsylvania 19382.

82. National Foam designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

83. Defendant PBI Performance Products, Inc. ("PBI") is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. PBI has its principal place of business at 9800-D Southern Pine Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina 28273.

84. PBI developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

85. Defendant Southern Mills, Inc. (“Southern Mills”) is a Georgia corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Southern Mills has its principal place of business at 6501 Mall Boulevard, Union City, Georgia 30291.

86. Southern Mills developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

87. Defendant Stedfast USA, Inc. (“Stedfast”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States. Stadfast has its principal place of business at 800 Mountain View Drive, Piney Flats, Tennessee 37686.

88. Stedfast developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

89. Defendant Tyco Fire Products, LP, as successor-in-interest to The Ansul Company (“Tyco”), is a Delaware limited partnership and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Tyco has its principal place of business at One Stanton Street, Marinette, Wisconsin 54143. Tyco manufactured and currently manufactures the Ansul brand of products, including Ansul brand AFFF containing PFAS.

90. Tyco is the successor in interest to the corporation formerly known as The Ansul Company (“Ansul”). At all times relevant, Tyco/Ansul designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

91. Defendant United Technologies Corporation (“United Technologies”) is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. United Technologies has its principal place of business at 8 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, Connecticut 06032.

92. United Technologies designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

93. Defendant UTC Fire & Security Americas Corporation, Inc. (f/k/a GE Interlogix, Inc.) (“UTC”) is a North Carolina corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. UTC has principal place of business at 3211 Progress Drive, Lincolnton, North Carolina 28092. Upon information and belief, Kidde-Fenwal, Inc. is part of the UTC Climate Control & Security unit of United Technologies Corporation.

94. UTC designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS that are used in firefighting training and response exercises which are the subject of this Complaint in such a way as to result in the contamination of Plaintiffs’ blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

95. Defendant W.L. Gore & Associates Inc. (“Gore”) is a Delaware corporation and does business throughout the United States, including conducting business in Louisiana. Gore has its principal place of business at 1901 Barksdale Road, Newark, Delaware 19711.

96. Gore developed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, released, sold, and/or used PFAS, PFAS materials, and products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting.

97. When reference is made in this Complaint to any act or omission of any of the Defendants, it shall be deemed that the officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives of the Defendants committed or authorized such act or omission, or failed to adequately supervise or properly control or direct their employees while engaged in the management, direction, operation, or control of the affairs of Defendants, and did so while acting within the scope of their duties, employment or agency.

98. The term “Defendant” or “Defendants” refers to all Defendants named herein jointly and severally.

GENERAL FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

99. AFFF is a mixture of chemicals, including PFAS, used to put out petroleum- based fuel and other flammable liquid fires. AFFF lowers surface tension of the fuel, which starves a fire of its oxygen supply. While the fluorinated compounds in AFFF work well to extinguish fires, they are not biodegradable. These toxic chemicals accumulate and contaminate the bodies of animals and humans who come in contact with or consume them.

100. Defendants designed, marketed, developed, manufactured, distributed, released, trained users, produced instructional materials, sold, and/or otherwise handled AFFF containing toxic PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS, and/or PFAS or products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting for use in firefighting that were used at fire departments, airports, air force bases and naval bases around the country.

101. Defendants have each designed, marketed, developed, distributed, sold,

manufactured, released, trained users on, produced instructional materials for, and/or otherwise handled and/or used AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS, and/or PFAS or products containing PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting, in such a way as to cause the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS, and the resultant biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs.

102. Prior to commercial development and large-scale manufacture and use of AFFF containing PFAS, no such PFAS had been found, detected, or were present in human blood.

103. By at least the end of the 1960s, animal toxicity testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or PFAS or products containing PFAS in turnout gear indicated that exposure to such materials, including at least PFOA, resulted in various adverse health effects among multiple species of laboratory animals, including toxic effects to the liver, testes, adrenals, and other organs and bodily systems.

104. By at least the end of the 1960s, additional research and testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear indicated that such materials, including at least PFOA, because of their unique chemical structure, were resistant to environmental degradation and would persist in the environment essentially unaltered if allowed to enter the environment.

105. By at least the end of the 1970s, additional research and testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear indicated that one or more such

materials, including at least PFOA and PFOS, because of their unique chemical structure, would bind to proteins in the blood of animals and humans exposed to such materials where such materials would not only remain and persist over long periods of time but would accumulate and build up in the blood/bodies of the exposed individuals with each additional exposure, no matter how small.

106. Defendants manufacturing and/or using AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear released such PFAS into the environment during, as a result of, or in connection with their manufacturing and other commercial operations, including into the air, surface waters, ground water, soils, landfills, and/or through their involvement and/or participation in the creation of consumer or other commercial products and materials and related training and response and instructional materials and activities that Defendants knew, foresaw, and/or reasonably should have known and/or foreseen would expose Plaintiffs to such PFAS.

107. By at least the end of the 1970s, Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, including at least DuPont and 3M, were aware that PFAS, including at least PFOA and PFOS, had been detected not only in the blood of workers at PFAS manufacturing facilities, but in the blood of the general population of the United States in people not known to be working at or living near PFAS manufacturing and/or use facilities, indicating to such Defendants that continued manufacture and use of such PFAS materials would inevitably result in continued and increased levels of PFAS getting into the environment and into human blood across the United States, even in areas nowhere near or associated with specific PFAS manufacturing or use facilities.

108. By at least the end of the 1980s, additional research and testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, indicated that at least one such PFAS, PFOA, had caused Leydig cell (testicular) tumors in a chronic cancer study in rats, resulting in at least one such Defendant, DuPont, classifying such PFAS internally as a confirmed animal carcinogen and possible human carcinogen.

109. It was understood by Defendants by at least the end of the 1980s that a chemical that caused cancer in animal studies must be presumed to present a cancer risk to humans, unless the precise mechanism of action by which the tumors were caused was known and it was known that such mechanism of action would not be operative and/or occur in humans.

110. By at least the end of the 1980s, scientists had not determined the precise mechanism of action by which any PFAS caused tumors and thus prevailing scientific principles of carcinogenesis classification mandated that Defendants presume any such PFAS material that caused tumors in animal studies could present a potential cancer risk to exposed humans.

111. By at least the end of the 1980s, additional research and testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, including at least DuPont, indicated that elevated incidence of certain cancers and other adverse health effects, including elevated liver enzymes and birth defects, had been observed among workers exposed to such materials, including at least PFOA, but such data was not published, provided to governmental entities as required by law, or otherwise publicly disclosed at the time.

112. By at least the end of the 1980s, Defendants, including at least 3M and DuPont, understood that, not only did these PFAS, including at least PFOA and PFOS, get into and persist

and accumulate in human blood and in the human body, but that once in the human body and blood, particularly the longer-chain PFAS, such as PFOS and PFOA, had a long half-life, meaning that they would take a very long time (years) before even half of the material would start to be eliminated (assuming no further exposures), which allowed increasing levels of the chemicals to build up and accumulate in the blood and/or bodies of exposed individuals over time, particularly if any level of exposures continued.

113. By at least the end of the 1990s, additional research and testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, including at least 3M and DuPont, indicated that at least one such PFAS, PFOA, had caused a triad of tumors (Leydig cell (testicular), liver, and pancreatic) in a second chronic cancer study in rats.

114. By at least the end of the 1990s, the precise mechanism(s) of action by which any PFAS caused each of the tumors found in animal studies had still not been identified, mandating that Defendants continue to presume that any such PFAS that caused such tumors in animal studies could present a potential cancer risk to exposed humans.

115. By at least 2010, additional research and testing performed by Defendants manufacturing and/or using PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, including at least 3M and DuPont, revealed multiple potential adverse health impacts among workers exposed to such PFAS, including at least PFOA, such as increased cancer incidence, hormone changes, lipid changes, and thyroid and liver impacts, which such Defendants' own scientists, lawyers, and advisors recommended be studied further to assess the extent to which PFAS exposures were causing those effects.

116. When the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("USEPA") and other state and local public health agencies and officials first began learning of PFAS exposures in the

United States and potential associated adverse health effects, Defendants repeatedly assured and represented to such entities and the public that such exposures presented no risk of harm and were of no legal, toxicological, or medical significance of any kind.

117. After USEPA and other entities began asking Defendants to stop manufacturing and/or using certain PFAS, Defendants began manufacturing and/or using and/or began making and/or using more of certain other and/or “new” PFAS, including PFAS materials with six or fewer carbons, such as GenX (collectively “Short-Chain PFAS”).

118. Defendants manufacturing and/or using Short-Chain PFAS, including at least DuPont and 3M, are aware that one or more such Short-Chain PFAS materials also have been found in human blood.

119. By at least the mid-2010s, Defendants, including at least DuPont and Chemours, were aware that at least one Short-Chain PFAS had been found to cause the same triad of tumors (Leydig (testicular), liver, and pancreatic) in a chronic rat cancer study as had been found in a chronic rat cancer study with a non-Short-Chain PFAS.

120. As of today’s date, the precise mechanism(s) of action by which any PFAS causes each of the tumors found in animal studies has(ve) not been identified, mandating that Defendants presume that any such PFAS that caused such tumors in animal studies be presumed to present a potential cancer risk to exposed humans.

121. Research and testing performed by and/or on behalf of Defendants making and/or using Short-Chain PFAS indicates that such Short-Chain PFAS materials present the same, similar, and/or additional risks to human health as had been found in research on other PFAS materials, including cancer risk.

122. Nevertheless, Defendants repeatedly assured and represented to governmental

entities and the public (and continue to do so) that the presence of PFAS, including these Short-Chain PFAS, in human blood at the levels found within the United States presents no risk of harm and is of no legal, toxicological, or medical significance of any kind.

123. As of today's date, Defendants, through their membership in the FluoroCouncil, represent to the public through the FluoroCouncil website that: "The newer, short-chain chemistries currently in use are well studied [and] ... [t]he science supports the conclusion that the newer FluoroTechnology is not expected to present a significant risk to humans and the environment."

124. At all relevant times, Defendants, individually and/or collectively, have had the resources and ability but have intentionally, purposefully, recklessly, and/or negligently chosen not to fund or sponsor any study, investigation, testing, and/or other research of any kind of the nature Defendants claim is necessary to confirm and/or prove that the presence of any one and/or combination of PFAS in human blood causes any disease and/or adverse health impact of any kind in humans, presents any risk of harm to humans, and/or is of any legal, toxicological, or medical significance to humans, according to standards Defendants deem acceptable.

125. Even after an independent science panel, known as the "C8 Science Panel," publicly announced in the 2010s that human exposure to 0.05 parts per billion or more of one PFAS, PFOA, in drinking water for one year or more had "probable links" with certain human diseases, including kidney cancer, testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, preeclampsia, and medically-diagnosed high cholesterol, Defendants repeatedly assured and represented to governmental entities, their customers, and the public (and continue to do so) that the presence of PFAS in human blood at the levels found within the United States presents no risk of harm and is of no legal, toxicological, or medical significance of any kind, and have represented

to and assured such governmental entities, their customers, and the public (and continue to do so) that the work of the independent C8 Science Panel was inadequate to satisfy the standards of Defendants to prove such adverse effects upon and/or any risk to humans with respect to PFAS in human blood.

126. At all relevant times, Defendants shared and/or should have shared among themselves all relevant information relating to the presence, biopersistence, and bioaccumulation of PFAS in human blood and associated toxicological, epidemiological, and/or other adverse effects and/or risks.

127. As of the present date, blood serum testing and analysis by Defendants, independent scientific researchers, and/or government entities has confirmed that PFAS materials are clinically demonstrably present in approximately 99% of the current population of the United States.

128. There is no naturally-occurring “background,” normal, and/or acceptable level or rate of any PFAS in human blood, as all PFAS detected and/or present in human blood is present and/or detectable in such blood as a direct and proximate result of the acts and/or omissions of Defendants.

129. Data exists to indicate that the presence, accumulation, toxic invasion, and/or persistence of PFAS in human blood, including that of Plaintiffs, is injurious and physically harmful and results in unwanted, unconsented-to, and deleterious alterations, changes, and/or other presently-existing physical injury and/or adverse impacts to the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs, including but not limited to subcellular injuries, including but not limited to biopersistence and bioaccumulation within the body.

130. At all relevant times, Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions, controlled, minimized, trivialized, manipulated, and/or otherwise influenced the information that was

published in peer-review journals, released by any governmental entity, and/or otherwise made available to the public relating to PFAS in human blood and any alleged adverse impacts and/or risks associated therewith, effectively preventing Plaintiffs from discovering the existence and extent of any injuries/harm as alleged herein.

131. At all relevant times, Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions, took steps to attack, challenge, discredit, and/or otherwise undermine any scientific studies, findings, statements, and/or other information that proposed, alleged, suggested, or even implied any potential adverse health effects or risks and/or any other fact of any legal, toxicological, or medical significance associated with the presence of PFAS in human blood.

132. At all relevant times, Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions, concealed and/or withheld information from their customers, governmental entities, and the public that would have properly and fully alerted Plaintiffs to the legal, toxicological, medical, or other significance and/or risk from having any PFAS material in his blood.

133. At all relevant times, Defendants encouraged the continued and even further increased use and release into the environment of PFAS by their customers and others, including but not limited to through manufacture, use, and release, of AFFF containing PFAS and/or emergency responder protection gear or equipment coated with materials made with or containing PFAS, and tried to encourage and foster the increased and further use of PFAS in connection with as many products/uses/and applications as possible, despite knowledge of the toxicity, persistence, and bioaccumulation concerns associated with such activities.

134. Once governmental entities and regulators began learning of the potential toxicity, persistence, and bioaccumulation concerns associated with PFAS, Defendants cited to the pervasive use of such PFAS throughout numerous sectors of the American economy (which they

had intentionally and purposefully encouraged and created) and the widespread presence of PFAS in blood of Americans (which they also had negligently, recklessly, and/or intentionally caused) as an excuse and/or reason not to restrict or regulate PFAS, essentially arguing that the issues associated with PFAS had become “too big to regulate.”

135. To this day, Defendants deny that the presence of any PFAS in human blood, at any level, is an injury or presents any harm or risk of harm of any kind, or is otherwise of any legal, toxicological, or medical significance.

136. To this day, Defendants deny that any scientific study, research, testing, or other work of any kind has been performed that is sufficient to suggest to the public that the presence of any PFAS material in human blood, at any level, is of any legal, toxicological, medical, or other significance.

137. Defendants, to this day, affirmatively assert and represent to governmental entities, their customers, and the public that there is no evidence that any of the PFAS found in human blood across the United States causes any health impacts or is sufficient to generate an increased risk of future disease sufficient to warrant diagnostic medical testing, often referring to existing studies or data as including too few participants or too few cases or incidents of disease to draw any scientifically credible or statistically significant conclusions.

138. Defendants, to this day, use and rely upon what they claim is this same “lack of definitive evidence of causation” as between any PFAS and any adverse human health effect to oppose and try to discourage regulatory and/or legislative efforts to limit, restrict, and/or address PFAS impacts to the environment or human health, and to oppose, reject, and deny claims that PFAS has caused any injury or increased the risk of any adverse human health effects.

139. Yet, to this day, Defendants knowingly, willfully, purposefully, intentionally,

recklessly, and/or negligently refuse to fund or conduct any scientific study, research, testing, and/or other work of any kind that is extensive or comprehensive enough, according to Defendants, to generate results that Defendants will accept (outside the context of an existing written settlement agreement such as DuPont entered with respect to certain PFOA exposures, which created the C8 Science Panel) as sufficient to confirm a causal connection between any single or combination of PFAS in human blood and any injury, human disease, adverse human health impact, and/or a risk sufficient to warrant any personal injury compensation or future diagnostic medical testing, including medical monitoring.

140. Defendants were and/or should have been aware, knew and/or should have known, and/or foresaw or should have foreseen that their marketing, development, manufacture, distribution, release, training and response of users, production of instructional materials, sale and/or other handling and/or use of AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, would result in the contamination of the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs with PFAS, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

141. Defendants were and /or should have been aware, or knew and/or should have known, and/or foresaw or should have foreseen that allowing PFAS to contaminate the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs would cause injury, irreparable harm, and/or unacceptable risk of such injury and/or irreparable harm to Plaintiffs.

142. Defendants did not seek or obtain permission or consent from Plaintiffs before engaging in such acts and/or omissions that caused, allowed, and/or otherwise resulted in Plaintiffs' exposure to AFFF and the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies with PFAS materials, and resulting biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or

bodies.

PLAINTIFFS' EXPOSURE TO AFFF

143. Plaintiff James Chester, III worked as a firefighter for Federal Marine Terminals, Inc. in Lake Charles, Louisiana from 1997 to 2008. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff James Chester, III was diagnosed with kidney failure in approximately 2022.

144. Plaintiff Dennis Crocker worked as a firefighter for Kenner Fire Department in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, from 1981 to 2013, as well as Independence Fire Department in Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, from 2010 to 2015. He also worked at the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Academy in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, from 2008 to 2010. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in approximately 2022.

145. Plaintiff Bradley Daspit worked as a firefighter for Lacombe be Fire Department in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, from 1974 to 1996. He also worked as a firefighter for Harrison County Fire Department in Harrison County, Mississippi from 1996 to 2011. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with prostate cancer in approximately 2022.

146. Plaintiff Peter Haas was a member of the United States Navy from 1976 to 1998. During this time he worked as a firefighter and used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff Peter Haas was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in approximately 2016.

147. Plaintiff Richard Hirstius was a member of the United States Coast Guard from 1973 to 1977. He also worked as a firefighter for New Orleans Fire Department in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, from 1993 to 2013. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with prostate cancer in approximately 2022.

148. Plaintiff Gene Jones worked as a firefighter for Bridge City Fire Department in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, from 1978 to the present. He also worked as a firefighter training instructor from 1980 to 1985. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with kidney cancer in approximately 2018.

149. Plaintiff Troy LaCour worked as a firefighter for New Orleans Fire Department in Orleans Parish, Louisiana, from 1997 to 2008. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated

with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with prostate cancer in approximately 2016.

150. Plaintiff Edward Mayers, III worked as a firefighter in the United States Navy from 1989 to 1992. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff Edward Mayers, III was diagnosed with kidney cancer in approximately 2019.

151. Plaintiff Kirk Meier worked as a firefighter for Kenner Fire Department in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, from 1992 to the present. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with testicular cancer in approximately 2000.

152. Plaintiff Brian Monnerjahn was a member of the Merchant Marines from 1990 to 2005. During this time, he worked as a firefighter for During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff Brian Monnerjahn was diagnosed with prostate cancer in approximately 2014.

153. Plaintiff Anthony Sambola, Jr. worked as a firefighter for Jefferson Parish Fire Department in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, from 1986 to 2013 and NASA Michoud in Jefferson

Parish, Louisiana from 1981 to 1986. During this time, he used AFFF containing PFAS in firefighting training and response exercises, and used equipment/gear treated and/or coated with materials containing and/or contaminated with one or more PFAS. He also used and ingested water contaminated with PFAS. As a result, Plaintiff was diagnosed with prostate cancer in approximately 2022.

154. The AFFF containing PFAS, which was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold by Defendants, was expected to, and did, reach the aforementioned locations without substantial change in the condition in which it was sold.

155. The descriptive labels and data sheets for the AFFF containing PFAS utilized at the aforementioned locations did not reasonably nor adequately describe the hazards of AFFF containing PFAS. Defendants knew or should have known of these hazards when the product was distributed. Defendants manufactured, designed, marketed, distributed, and/or sold the AFFF, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear knowing that the PFAS contained in the AFFF presented an unreasonable risk to human health and the inherently dangerous.

156. Plaintiffs suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects attendant thereto, as a direct and proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous and defective nature of Defendant's wrongful and negligent conduct in the design, engineering, manufacture, development, fabrication, testing, release, training and response of users, production of informational materials, handling, selling, use, and/or distribution of AFFF containing PFAS, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear.

157. As detailed above and below, Defendant manufacturers of AFFF, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF which contained PFAS, and/or products containing

PFAS in turnout gear for use in firefighting, through their officers, directors, partners, and/or managing agents had actual knowledge that the products were defective in the manner alleged above and took affirmative steps to conceal the defects.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I **Negligence**

158. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

159. Defendants had a duty to exercise reasonable care in their design, engineering, manufacture, development, fabrication, testing, release, training and response of users, production of informational materials, handling, selling, use, and/or distribution of the inherently dangerous AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, including a duty of care to ensure that PFAS did not infiltrate, persist in, and accumulate in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs.

160. Defendants owed a duty of care towards Plaintiffs that was commensurate with the inherently dangerous, harmful, injurious, bio-persistent, environmentally-persistent, toxic, and bio-accumulative nature of PFAS.

161. Defendants failed to exercise ordinary care by acts and/or omissions that permitted, allowed, and/or otherwise resulted in the contamination of, persistence in, and accumulation in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs with one or more PFAS, including all such acts and/or omissions referenced in this Complaint, resulting in Plaintiffs having one or more PFAS in their blood.

162. Defendants knew, foresaw, anticipated, and/or should have foreseen, anticipated, and/or known that the design, engineering, manufacture, fabrication, sale, release, training and response of users, production of informational materials, handling, use, and/or distribution of

AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, and/or other acts and/or omissions as described in this Complaint could likely result in the contamination of the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs and its persistence and accumulation in their blood and/or bodies.

163. Despite knowing, anticipating, and/or foreseeing the bio-persistent, bio-accumulative, toxic, and/or otherwise harmful and/or injurious nature of AFFF containing PFAS, Defendants, their agents, servants, and/or employees, committed negligent acts and/or omissions that resulted in the contamination of the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs with one or more PFAS materials, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

164. Defendants, through their acts and/or omissions as described in this Complaint, breached their duty to Plaintiffs.

165. It was reasonably foreseeable to Defendants that Plaintiffs would likely suffer the injuries and harm described in this Complaint by virtue of Defendants' breach of their duty and failure to exercise ordinary care, as described herein.

166. But for Defendants' negligent and/ or gross negligent acts and/or omissions, Plaintiffs would not have been injured or harmed.

167. Defendants' negligent conduct was the direct and proximate cause of the injuries and harm to Plaintiffs, as described herein.

COUNT II
Battery

168. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

169. At all relevant times, Defendants possessed knowledge that the AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing

PFAS in turnout gear, which they designed, engineered, manufactured, fabricated, sold, handled, released, trained users on, produced instructional materials for, used, and/or distributed were bio-persistent, bio- accumulative, toxic, potentially carcinogenic, and/or otherwise harmful/injurious and that their continued manufacture, use, sale, handling, release, and distribution would result in Plaintiffs having PFAS in their blood, and the biopersistence and bioaccumulation of such PFAS in their blood.

170. However, despite possessing such knowledge, Defendants knowingly, purposefully, and/or intentionally continued to engage in such acts and/or omissions, including but not limited to all such acts and/or omissions described in this Complaint, that continued to result in Plaintiffs accumulating PFAS in their blood and/or bodies, and such PFAS persisting and accumulating in their blood and/or bodies.

171. Defendants did not seek or obtain permission or consent from Plaintiffs to put or allow PFAS materials into their blood and/or bodies, or to persist in and/or accumulate in their blood and/or bodies.

172. Entry into, persistence in, and accumulation of such PFAS in Plaintiffs' bodies and/or blood without permission or consent is an unlawful and harmful and/or offensive physical invasion and/or contact with Plaintiffs' persons and unreasonably interferes with Plaintiffs' rightful use and possession of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies.

173. At all relevant times, the PFAS present in the blood of Plaintiffs originated from Defendants' acts and/or omissions.

174. Defendants continue to knowingly, intentionally, and/or purposefully engage in acts and/or omissions that result in the unlawful and unconsented-to physical invasion and/or contact with Plaintiffs that results in persisting and accumulating levels of PFAS in their blood.

175. Plaintiffs, and any reasonable person, finds the contact at issue harmful and/or offensive.

176. Defendants acted intentionally with the knowledge and/or belief that the contact, presence and/or invasion of PFAS with, onto and/or into Plaintiffs' blood serum, including its persistence and accumulation in such serum, was substantially certain to result from those very acts and/or omissions.

177. Defendants' intentional acts and/or omissions resulted directly and/or indirectly in harmful contact with Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies.

178. The continued presence, persistence, and accumulation of PFAS in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs is offensive, unreasonable, and/or harmful, and thereby constitutes a battery.

179. The presence of PFAS in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs has altered the structure and/or function of such blood and/or bodies parts and resulted in cancer.

180. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and omissions, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer physical injury for which Defendants are therefore liable.

COUNT III
Inadequate Warning

181. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

182. Defendants knew or should have known: (a) exposure to AFFF containing PFAS was hazardous to the environment and to human health; (b) the manner in which they were designing, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, and selling AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, was hazardous to human health; and (c) the manner in which they were manufacturing, marketing, distributing, and selling AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or

products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, would result in the contamination of Plaintiffs' blood and/or bodies as a result of exposure.

183. Defendants had a duty to warn of the hazards associated with AFFF containing PFAS entering and poisoning the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs because they knew of the dangerous, hazardous, toxic, and poisonous properties of AFFF containing PFAS. Defendants failed to provide sufficient warning to purchasers that the use of their AFFF products would cause PFAS to be released into Plaintiffs and cause the exposure and bioaccumulation of these toxic and poisonous chemicals in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs.

184. Adequate instructions and warnings on the AFFF containing PFAS could have reduced or avoided these foreseeable risks of harm and injury to Plaintiffs. If Defendants provided adequate warnings: (a) Plaintiffs could have and would have taken measures to avoid or lessen their exposures; and (b) end users and governments could have taken steps to reduce or prevent the release of PFASs into the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs. Defendants' failure to warn was a direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff's injuries from PFAS that came from the use, storage, and disposal of AFFF containing PFAS. Crucially, Defendants' failure to provide adequate and sufficient warnings for the AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, they manufactured, designed, marketed, distributed, and sold renders the AFFF a defective product.

185. Defendants were negligent in their failure to provide Plaintiffs with adequate warnings or instruction that the use of their AFFF products would cause PFAS to be released into the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs. As a result of Defendants' conduct and the resulting contamination, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, sever personal injuries by exposure to AFFF containing PFAS.

186. Defendants' negligent failure to warn directly and proximately caused the harm to and damages suffered by Plaintiffs.

COUNT IV
Design Defect

187. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

188. Defendants knew or should have known: (a) exposure to AFFF containing PFAS is hazardous to human health; (b) the manner in which AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold was hazardous to human health; and (c) the manner in which AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, was designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and could and would release PFAS into Plaintiffs and cause the exposure and bioaccumulation of these toxic and poisonous chemicals in the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs.

189. Knowing of the dangerous and hazardous properties of the AFFF containing PFAS, Defendants could have designed, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold alternative designs or formulations of AFFF that did not contain hazardous, toxic, and poisonous PFAS. These alternative designs and formulations were already available, practical, and technologically feasible. The use of these alternative designs would have reduced or prevented the reasonably foreseeable harm to Plaintiffs caused by the Defendants' manufacture, marketing, distribution, and sale of AFFF containing hazardous, toxic, and poisonous PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear.

190. The AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, that was designed, manufactured,

marketed, distributed, and sold by the Defendants was so hazardous, toxic, poisonous, and dangerous to human health that the act of designing, formulating, manufacturing, marketing, distributing, and selling this AFFF was unreasonably dangerous under the circumstances.

191. The AFFF, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, designed, formulated, manufactured, marketed, distributed, and sold by Defendants was defectively designed and the foreseeable risk of harm could and would have been reduced or eliminated by the adoption of a reasonable alternative design that was not unreasonably dangerous. Defendants' defective design and formulation of AFFF containing PFAS, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, was a direct and proximate cause of the contamination of the blood and/or bodies of Plaintiffs and the persistence and accumulation of PFAS in their blood and/or bodies.

192. Defendants' defective design and formulation of AFFF containing PFAS caused the contamination described herein resulting in personal injuries to Plaintiffs. As a direct result of the harm and injury caused by Defendants' defective design and the contamination described herein, Plaintiffs have been exposed to AFFF containing PFAS and other toxic substances and have developed serious medical injuries, including cancer.

193. Defendants' negligent failure to design a reasonably safe product directly and proximately caused the harm to and damages suffered by Plaintiffs.

COUNT V
Strict Liability (Statutory)

194. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs

195. Plaintiffs assert any and all remedies available under statutory causes of action from Plaintiffs' state for strict liability against each Defendant.

196. Defendants were engaged in designing, manufacturing, marketing, selling, and distribution of AFFF and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear.

197. AFFF was in a defective condition and unreasonably dangerous to users and/or consumers when designed, manufactured, marketed, sold, and/or distributed to the public by Defendants.

198. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants products' aforementioned defects, Plaintiffs have been injured, sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, economic loss and damages including, but not limited to medical expenses, lost income, and other damages.

199. Defendants are strictly liable in tort to the Plaintiffs for their wrongful conduct.

COUNT VI
Strict Liability (Restatement)

200. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

201. Plaintiffs bring strict product liability claims under the common law, Section 402A of the Restatement of Torts (Second), and/or Restatement of Torts (Third) against Defendants.

202. As designed, manufactured, marketed, tested, assembled, equipped, distributed and/or sold by Defendants, the AFFF product was in a defective and unreasonably dangerous condition when put to reasonably anticipated use to foreseeable consumers and users, including Plaintiffs.

203. Defendants had available reasonable alternative designs which would have made the AFFF product safer and would have most likely prevented the injuries and damages to Plaintiffs, thus violating state law and the Restatement of Torts.

204. Defendants failed to properly and adequately warn and instruct Plaintiff as to the proper safety and use of the Defendants product.

205. Defendants failed to properly and adequately warn and instruct Plaintiff regarding the inadequate research and testing of the product.

206. Defendants' products are inherently dangerous and defective, unfit and unsafe for their intended and reasonably foreseeable uses, and do not meet or perform to the expectations.

207. As a proximate result of Defendants' design, manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of the products, Plaintiff has been injured and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, and economic damages.

208. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants are strictly liable for the injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff, caused by these defects in the AFFF product.

COUNT VII
Fraudulent Concealment

209. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs s of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

210. Throughout the relevant time period, Defendants knew that their products were defective and unreasonably unsafe for their intended purpose.

211. Defendants fraudulently concealed from and/or failed to disclose to or warn Plaintiff and the public that their products were defective, unsafe, and unfit for the purposes intended, and that they were not of merchantable quality.

212. Defendants were under a duty to the Plaintiffs and the public to disclose and warn

of the defective and harmful nature of the products because:

- a) Defendants were in a superior position to know the true quality, safety and efficacy of Defendants' products;
- b) Defendants knowingly made false claims about the safety and quality of the Defendants' product in documents and marketing materials; and
- c) Defendants fraudulently and affirmatively concealed the defective nature of Defendants' products from Plaintiff.

213. The facts concealed and/or not disclosed by Defendants to Plaintiffs were material facts that a reasonable person would have considered to be important in deciding whether or not to purchase and/or use Defendants' products.

214. Defendants intentionally concealed and/or failed to disclose the true defective nature of the products so that the Plaintiffs would use Defendants' products, the Plaintiffs justifiably acted or relied upon, to Plaintiffs' detriment, the concealed and/or non-disclosed facts as evidenced by Plaintiffs' use of Defendants' products.

215. Defendants, by concealment or other action, intentionally prevented Plaintiffs from acquiring material information regarding the lack of safety and effectiveness of Defendants' products and are subject to the same liability to the Plaintiffs for Plaintiffs' pecuniary losses, as though Defendants had stated the non-existence of such material information regarding Defendants' products' lack of safety and effectiveness and dangers and defects, and as though Defendants had affirmatively stated the non-existence of such matters that the Plaintiffs were thus prevented from discovering the truth. Defendants therefore have liability for fraudulent concealment under all applicable laws, including, *inter alia*, Restatement (Second) of Torts §550 (1977).

216. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, the Plaintiffs have been injured, and sustained severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of

life, comfort, and economic damages.

COUNT VIII
Breach of Express and Implied Warranties

217. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

218. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants manufactured, marketed, labeled, and sold the AFFF products, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, and/or chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, that have been previously alleged and described herein.

219. At the time Defendants designed, developed, marketed, sold, labeled, and distributed the AFFF products, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, Defendants knew of the use for which they were intended, and implied and/or expressly warranted that the products were merchantable, safe, and fit for the intended purpose.

220. Defendants warranted that the products were merchantable and fit for the particular purpose for which they were intended and would be reasonably safe. These warranties were breached, and such breach proximately resulted in the injuries and damages suffered by Plaintiff.

221. Plaintiffs are within the class of foreseeable users and reasonably relied upon Defendants' judgment, and the implied and/or express warranties in using the products.

222. Defendants breached their implied and/or express warranties and did not meet the expectations for the performance of the products when used for the intended use and was neither of merchantable quality nor safe for the intended use in that the products have a propensity to cause serious injury, pain, and cancer.

COUNT IX
Wantonness

223. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

224. Defendants and their employees, agents, officers, and representatives owed a duty of care to end users of their AFFF products, including Plaintiffs.

225. Defendants breached the duty of care owed to Plaintiffs.

226. The actions of Defendants and their employees, agents, officers, and representatives were willful and wanton and exhibited a reckless disregard for the life, health, and safety of the end users of Defendants' AFFF products, including Plaintiff.

227. As a proximate and foreseeable consequence of the actions of Defendants, Plaintiffs were exposed to unreasonably dangerous toxic PFAS containing AFFF, which caused Plaintiffs' injury.

COUNT X
Punitive Damages

228. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as if restated in full herein.

229. Upon information and belief, Defendants engaged in willful, wanton, malicious, and/or reckless conduct that was done without regard to the consequences or the safety of Plaintiffs and caused the foregoing injuries upon Plaintiffs, disregarding his protected rights.

230. Defendants' willful, wanton, malicious, and/or reckless conduct includes but is not limited to Defendants' failure to take all reasonable measures to ensure Plaintiffs were not exposed to PFAS which Defendants knew were linked to serious medical conditions.

231. Defendants have caused significant harm to Plaintiffs and have demonstrated a conscious and outrageous disregard for their safety with implied malice, warranting the imposition of punitive damages.

TOLLING THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS
Discovery Rule Tolling

232. Plaintiffs had no way of knowing about the risk of serious injury associated with the use of and exposure to AFFF until very recently.

233. Within the time period of any applicable statute of limitations, Plaintiffs could not have discovered, through the exercise of reasonable diligence, that exposure to AFFF is harmful to human health.

234. Plaintiffs did not discover and did not know of facts that would cause a reasonable person to suspect the risk associated with the use of and exposure to AFFF; nor would a reasonable and diligent investigation by Plaintiff have disclosed that AFFF could cause personal injury.

235. For these reasons, all applicable statutes of limitations have been tolled by operation of the discovery rule with respect to Plaintiffs' claims.

Fraudulent Concealment Tolling

236. All applicable statute of limitations and statutes of repose have also been tolled by Defendants knowing and active fraudulent concealment and denial of the facts alleged herein throughout the time period relevant to this action.

237. Instead of disclosing critical safety information regarding AFFF, and/or underlying chemicals and/or products added to AFFF, and/or products containing PFAS in turnout gear, Defendants have consistently and falsely represented the safety of AFFF products.

238. This fraudulent concealment continues through present day.

239. Due to this fraudulent concealment, all applicable statutes of limitations and statutes of repose have been tolled with respect to Plaintiffs' claims.

Tolling Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9658

240. Plaintiffs did not know and could not have reasonably known that their personal injuries were caused by or contributed to by the use of and exposure to AFFF until sometime within the past year.

241. The federally required commencement date for the running of the statute of limitations begins running on the date Plaintiffs knew or reasonably should have known that the personal injury was caused or contributed to by their exposure pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9658.

242. Plaintiffs did not discover and did not know of facts that would cause a reasonable person to suspect the risk associated with the use of and exposure to AFFF; nor would a reasonable and diligent investigation by Plaintiffs have disclosed that AFFF could cause personal injury.

243. For these reasons, applicable state statutes of limitations have been tolled by operation of the discovery rule pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9658 with respect to Plaintiffs' claims.

PRAAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request the Court enter judgment against the Defendants on each of the above-referenced claims as follows:

- (a) Finding Defendants jointly, severally and solidarily liable for past, present and future damages suffered by Plaintiffs;
- (b) Awarding compensatory damages in excess of the jurisdictional amount, including, but not limited to pain, suffering, emotional distress, loss of enjoyment of life, and other non-economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial of this action;
- (c) Awarding economic damages in the form of medical expenses, out of pocket expenses, lost earnings and other economic damages in an amount to be determine at trial of this action;

- (d) Punitive and/or exemplary damages for the wanton, willful, fraudulent, reckless acts of the Defendants who demonstrated a complete disregard and reckless indifference for the safety and welfare of the general public and to the Plaintiffs in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter future similar conduct;
- (e) An order finding Defendants liable for conspiracy in the manner described herein;
- (f) Prejudgment interest;
- (g) Post-judgment interest;
- (h) Awarding Plaintiffs reasonable attorneys' fees when applicable;
- (i) Awarding Plaintiffs the costs of these proceedings; and
- (j) Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs hereby demand trial by jury as to all issues.

Dated: January 5, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Merritt E. Cunningham
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